# Heathrow terminal 3 evacuated over suspicious item as travel chaos spreads



Thousands of travellers faced considerable disruption at London Heathrow Airport as Terminal 3 was evacuated due to the discovery of a suspicious item in a passenger's baggage. Passengers were swiftly directed to leave the terminal while police and emergency services assessed the situation. Major airlines operating from Terminal 3, including Virgin Atlantic, Delta, Emirates, Cathay Pacific, and British Airways, were affected, creating a ripple effect across scheduled flights.

The incident unfolded when the suspicious item was found, prompting immediate safety protocols. A spokesperson for Heathrow indicated that the precautionary evacuation involved only a small section of Terminal 3 and that the concern was quickly addressed. Once deemed safe, operations resumed, albeit with an apology offered to passengers for the inconvenience caused. However, the nature of the item remains unclear, leaving some to speculate whether it was discovered during security screenings.

This evacuation was not an isolated event. Just a day prior, Terminal 4 had experienced a similar scare when a passenger activated alarms on an Elizabeth line train, leading to a hasty evacuation of that terminal as well. Such incidents have raised concerns regarding the overall safety and security measures at Heathrow, especially given the high volume of international traffic flowing through the airport.

Staff from the airport reported that the disruptions had a ripple effect on rail services connected to Terminal 3, specifically the Heathrow Express and the Elizabeth Line, which saw over 20 train cancellations. Yet, confusion lingered over how many of these cancellations stemmed directly from the security incident, as earlier mechanical issues had already caused service delays.

Remarkably, under European air passenger rights regulations, airlines are obligated to accommodate affected travellers in cases of cancellations, including those resulting from security scares. This includes providing meals and necessary accommodations until travellers can be rerouted.

The event at Terminal 3 was a reminder of a similar incident at Gatwick Airport in November 2024, where a suspicious item triggered extensive evacuations and airport closures, resulting in significant travel disruptions for tens of thousands of passengers. While on that occasion, the traveller in question was permitted to continue their journey along with the item, the evacuation left many passengers grappling with confusion and distress.

As of now, operations at Heathrow have returned to normal following a brief disruption, indicating the effectiveness of emergency protocols in managing potentially dangerous situations. However, the series of recent incidents at such vital transport hubs calls into question the effectiveness of current security measures and the overall safety of air travel in a climate where passenger security remains a paramount concern.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/heathrow-terminal-3-evacuated-b2760185.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.londonworld.com/news/heathrow-airport-terminal-3-investigated-second-day-bag-investigated-4366321> - On 10 October 2023, Heathrow Airport's Terminal 3 was evacuated for the second consecutive day due to a suspicious bag. Passengers were seen outside the Virgin Atlantic and Delta terminal, awaiting information. The incident was resolved, and operations returned to normal. ([londonworld.com](https://www.londonworld.com/news/heathrow-airport-terminal-3-investigated-second-day-bag-investigated-4366321?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/live-heathrow-airport-updates-terminal-27876835> - On 10 October 2023, Terminal 3 at Heathrow Airport was evacuated after a suspicious bag was found. The evacuation lasted less than an hour, and the terminal reopened after the item was deemed safe. This followed a previous evacuation of Terminal 4 due to a disturbance on an Elizabeth line train. ([mylondon.news](https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/live-heathrow-airport-updates-terminal-27876835?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://metro.co.uk/2023/10/10/london-heathrow-airport-terminal-3-evacuated-security-incident-19637373/> - On 10 October 2023, Heathrow Airport's Terminal 3 was evacuated after a suspicious package was found. The evacuation lasted under an hour, and passengers returned to the terminal with minimal disruption to operations. This was the third incident affecting the airport in recent days. ([metro.co.uk](https://metro.co.uk/2023/10/10/london-heathrow-airport-terminal-3-evacuated-security-incident-19637373/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://readsector.com/heathrow-chaos-as-terminal-3-is-evacuated-a-day-following-security-scare-a-day-after-t4-was-cleared-when-man-pressed-alarms/> - On 10 October 2023, Heathrow Airport's Terminal 3 was evacuated due to a suspicious package. Passengers were seen outside the Virgin Atlantic and Delta terminal. The evacuation followed a previous incident on 9 October, where Terminal 4 was cleared after a man activated alarms on an Elizabeth line train. ([readsector.com](https://readsector.com/heathrow-chaos-as-terminal-3-is-evacuated-a-day-following-security-scare-a-day-after-t4-was-cleared-when-man-pressed-alarms/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1749936/Heathrow-Airport-evacuated-incident-latest> - On 10 October 2023, passengers were briefly evacuated from Heathrow Terminal 3 due to an incident. The evacuation was prompted by a fire alarm, but there was no sign or smell of smoke. A spokesperson confirmed the incident was resolved, and operations returned to normal. ([express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1749936/Heathrow-Airport-evacuated-incident-latest?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/heathrow-airports-terminal-3-evacuated-after-fire-alarm-498729> - On 4 July 2017, Heathrow Airport's Terminal 3 was evacuated following a fire alarm. The airport confirmed there was no fire, and passengers were directed back into the terminal shortly after the alarm. ([jpost.com](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/heathrow-airports-terminal-3-evacuated-after-fire-alarm-498729?utm_source=openai))